

# Chapel News

## Commentary: On giving thanks

By  
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USAGAPG

During the offering time at a church worship service a pastor noticed the collection plates were missing and so he decided to pass his hat around. The hat went around the packed congregation only to return empty. The pastor, noticing the hat empty, calmly turned towards the altar to order the offertory prayer, and said “Lord, thank

you, for they have at least returned my hat.”

Although humorous there is something pointed that can be said about this story. Yes, the amount you put in the collection basket can be a measure of your gratitude for life and all its blessings - one way of saying, “Thank you, Lord!” But, what really matters is the level of sincerity behind your gift.

Unfortunately, when it comes time to sincerely thank God for the blessings of his caring, loving

and healing presence in our life, many of us often seem ready to avoid the subject. We become too self centered and believe that it’s all about us and no one else.

Years ago when the pilgrims came together to celebrate the first Thanksgiving, they brought their own special kinds of foods as gifts in appreciation of the community they had established. They understood that it wasn’t about the “them” any longer, but about others. The

‘new’ Family they had established.

Thanksgiving is not about us, but humbly recognizing how truly blessed we are to have the Almighty give us wonderful friends and Family, and all the blessings we enjoy in this life. Don’t avoid it this year, give thanks for what has been and continues to be meaningful.

As Psalm 107 reminds us, “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, and his mercy endures forever.”

### Chapel hosts Nativity scene exhibition, St. Nicholas celebration

The Protestant and Catholic Religious Education Programs will sponsor a nativity scene exhibition and a St. Nicholas Celebration, 3 to 5 p.m., Dec. 7, in the Main Post Chapel Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is encouraged to bring and display their nativity set for the exhibition. Exhibitors can set up their nativity scene at 3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Bring Family and friends and enjoy an educational and fun afternoon viewing nativity sets from the United States and various countries, with warm refreshments, Christmas stories, videos, singing, prizes, bags of goodies and more.

For more information, call Olivia Wheaton, Sandra Hohmann, Religious Education coordinators, or Gerri Merkel, 410-278-2516 or e-mail [gerri.merkel@conus.army.mil](mailto:gerri.merkel@conus.army.mil).

## Holiday worship services Nov. 30 through Jan. 1

Main Post Chapel (Aberdeen Area)			
Catholic			
Sun., Nov. 30	Advent mass	8:45 a.m.	
Sun., Dec. 7	Advent mass	8:45 a.m.	
Mon., Dec. 8	Holy Day mass	6:30 p.m.	
Sun., Dec. 14	Advent mass	8:45 a.m.	
Sun., Dec. 21	Advent mass	8:45 a.m.	
Thur., Dec. 25	Christmas mass with Nativity Pageant	9 a.m.	
Sun., Dec. 28	Mass	8:45 a.m.	
Wed., Dec. 31	Vigil mass	6:30 p.m.	
Protestant			
Sun., Nov. 30	Advent worship	10:15 a.m.	
Sun., Dec. 7	AMC Band/Advent	10:15 a.m.	
Sun., Dec. 14	Christmas Cantata	10:15 a.m.	
Sun., Dec. 21	Advent worship	10:15 a.m.	
Wed., Dec. 24	Combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7 p.m.	
Sun., Dec. 28	Worship	10:15 a.m.	

Gospel			
Sun., Nov. 30	Advent worship	12 p.m.	
Sun., Dec. 7	Worship	12 p.m.	
Sun., Dec. 14	Worship	12 p.m.	
Sun., Dec. 21	Worship	12 p.m.	
Wed., Dec. 24	Combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7p.m.	
Sun., Dec. 28	Worship	12 p.m.	
Wed., Dec. 31	New Year’s Eve Watch Night Service	10 p.m.	
Edgewood Area			
Catholic			
Sun., Nov. 30	Advent mass	10:45 a.m.	
Sun., Dec. 7	Advent mass	10:45 a.m.	
Mon., Dec. 8	Holy Day mass	12 p.m.	
Sun., Dec. 14	Advent mass	10:45 a.m.	
Sat., Dec. 20	Holiday dinner	5:30 p.m.	
Sat., Dec. 20	Post Stable Liturgy	7 p.m.	
Sun., Dec. 21	Advent mass	10:45 a.m.	

Thu., Dec. 25	Christmas mass	11:15 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 28	Mass	10:45 a.m.
Thur., Jan. 1	Holy Day mass	10 a.m.
Protestant		
Sun., Nov. 30	Advent worship	9:15 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 7	Advent worship	9:15 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 14	Advent worship	9:15 a.m.
Sun., Dec. 21	Advent worship	9:15 a.m.
Wed., Dec. 24	Combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 28	Worship	9:15 a.m.
Ecumenical		
(Protestant and Catholic), Nativity Scene/Crèche Exhibit and St. Nicholas Celebration, Sunday, 3 to 5 p.m., Dec. 7, at the Main Post Chapel.		
<i>Please note: The Candlelight Service is ecumenical on Wed., 7 p.m., Dec. 24 at the Main Post Chapel. Everyone is welcome.</i>		

### POST SHORTS

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will be closed for the KUSAHC staff Family holiday party, noon until 4:30 p.m., Dec. 11

Patients should plan accordingly for any medication needs.

Since there is no Emergency Room at KUSAHC, call 911 for true emergencies.

For medical services needed after hours, weekends or federal holidays, contact Staff Duty, 410-278-1725. The Staff Duty Officer will coordinate patient’s care with the Medical Officer of the Day.

To avoid Point of Service copayment charges, patient will need authorization and/or a referral to go to any urgency clinic. Emergency Rooms do not require a referral.

### CFC book, movie fair continuing

Due to popular demand, the first annual Combined Federal Campaign book and movie fair will continue through Dec. 12.

The fair is located in building 30, Top of the Bay/Down Under.

Soft cover books will sell for \$.50, hard covers for \$1 or slightly more. Movies, VHS and DVD, are \$1. There are several hundred books, many mystery or romance, nearly new. Gatorade, water, health bars and chocolate cookies are also for sale.

Profits from the sales will go to the Catholic Charities, which helps the needy.

Anyone who enjoys both reading and bargain prices should stop by between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. For more information, call CFC, 410-278-9913/9917.

### FEHB open season

The Federal Employees Health Benefits Open Season runs through Dec. 8.

Employees who wish to change their health benefits carrier should visit <https://www.abc.army.mil> or call 1-877-276-9287. Changes

become effective Jan. 4, 2009.

For more information, contact Teri Wright, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, 410-278-4331, [teri.wright@us.army.mil](mailto:teri.wright@us.army.mil).

### NAF open season through Nov. 28

The Nonappropriated Fund Open Season for regular fulltime and part-time employees runs through Nov. 28. DA NAF Benefits has forwarded information to qualified employees to their home address.

Employees should review these materials carefully because there are some important benefit changes. Employees can also access this information at [www.NAFBENEFITS.com](http://www.NAFBENEFITS.com)

All changes must be processed before the close of business Nov. 28. Changes will be effective Jan. 1, 2009.

For more information or to update employee records, call NAF Human Resources, 410-278-5127/8994.

### Thanksgiving Day specialty meal

The Thanksgiving Day Specialty Meal for all military personnel will be held in the Aberdeen Area dining facility, building 4219 and the Edgewood Area dining facility, building E-4225, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Nov. 27.

During this event all military personnel, Family members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and guests are invited to dine, 1 to 2:30 p.m.

The holiday meal rate of \$6.35 applies to any officer, enlisted member and Family member of sergeant or above, DoD civilian, retiree and their guests. The discount meal rate of \$5.40 applies to spouses and other Family members of enlisted personnel in ranks private through specialist/corporal.

The Thanksgiving Day Specialty Meal Menu includes hearty turkey and

wild rice soup, shrimp cocktail, savory roasted turkey, orange honey glazed baked ham, carved to order steamship round, apple and sausage cornbread dressing, savory bread dressing, fluffy mashed potatoes with giblet gravy, candied yams, buttered corn, green beans almondine, assorted salad bar, bacon and tomato salad, cucumber salad, waldorf salad, cranberry sauce, hot rolls, apple pie, pumpkin pie, pecan pie, cherry pie, fresh fruit, hard candy, mixed nuts, soft serve ice cream with assorted toppings, assorted beverages and egg nog.

Note: Menu is subject to change without prior notification.

For more information, call Edward Parylo or Ernest Green, 410-306-1393/1398.

### RAB meeting scheduled

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m., Dec. 4, at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road. The topic of the meeting will be an update on performance-based contracts.

Board meetings are open to the public; all APG employees and citizens are invited.

For more information, call the Information Line at (410) 272-8842 or (800) APG-9998.

### Free American Sign Language class offered

A free American Sign Language class will be taught 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Tuesday, through Dec. 16. The class will be held at Edgewood Area building E-2100 Conference Center/Classroom. Sign language will be taught for beginners and more advanced students.

Students are welcome to bring their lunch and eat it during class.

To receive credit for the class, students may submit form DD 1556. Students

must complete at least 10 classes in order to receive credit.

For more information or to register, call BethAnn Cameron, 410-436-7175.

### Holiday Extravaganza, tree lighting ceremony

Army Community Service will host the annual Holiday Extravaganza and tree lighting ceremony 6 to 8:30 p.m., Dec. 3 at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326.

The tree lighting is at 6 p.m. inside the Recreation Center. Free photos with a “special guest” in his red suit starts at 7 p.m.

Since this is a free ticketed event, tickets can be picked up from ACS building 2754, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, call 410-278-4372/7572.

### Army 4th Annual Leadership Symposium

Registration is open through Dec. 17 for the Army Management Staff College 4th Annual Leadership Symposium: Navigating New Challenges, Jan. 27 to 29. The AMSC is located on 5500 21st Street, building 247, Fort Belvoir, Va.

Guest speakers will share their perspectives on leadership and executive development. World-renown authors, motivational speakers and government officials will conduct workshops on effective communication, understanding an individual’s importance to the organization, and finding balance in life. Participants can learn to make a difference in their organization and the federal government.

Cost of the workshop is \$50 per person and includes admission, meals, busing and workshop materials. Professional attire for military is ACU and business casual for civilians.

For a schedule of speakers, travel information,

registration cost and more, visit <http://amscportal.belvoir.army.mil/Symposium/index.jsp>.

For more information, call AMSC Operations, 703-805-4747/4744, or e-mail [amscsymposium@conus.army.mil](mailto:amscsymposium@conus.army.mil).

### CECOM commander to speak at AUSA/AFCEA luncheon

The Aberdeen Chapters of the Association of the U.S. Army and the Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association with support from ITEA invites everyone to attend their monthly luncheon, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Nov. 25 at Top of the Bay.

Guest speaker will be Maj. Gen. Dennis L. Via, CECOM Life Cycle Management Command, Fort Monmouth, N.J.

Meetings are open to non-members and members. Cost of the luncheon is \$15 per person, (cash or check only) and includes lunch. Official registration is on a first-come first-served basis.

For more information or to RSVP, e-mail Valerie, [vlk@orsacorp.com](mailto:vlk@orsacorp.com) or Joanne, [evans1117@comcast.net](mailto:evans1117@comcast.net).

### New arrivals required to attend Newcomers’ Orientation

All newly arriving Soldiers and civilian employees are required to attend the APG Newcomers’ Orientation, 1 to 3 p.m., Nov. 12 at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326. Sponsors are encouraged to bring their Family members, and all members of the APG community are welcome to attend.

More than 50 APG community activities and organization representatives will welcome arrivals with handouts and literature and will answer questions regarding their programs.

Each unit/activity is

requested to report the number of attending personnel to Phyllis Ethridge, Army Community Service, building 2754, 410-278-9669/7572, fax 410-278-9685 or e-mail [Phyllis.ethridge@us.army.mil](mailto:Phyllis.ethridge@us.army.mil).

### CPR Classes

Aberdeen Proving Ground Fire and Emergency Services offer CPR classes on APG.

Two classes will be held 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., the third Wednesday of each month.

In the Edgewood Area, classes will be held at the Conference Center, building E-4810, Feb. 18, April 15, Aug. 26, Oct. 21 and Dec. 16.

In the Aberdeen Area, classes will be held at the Post Theater Jan. 21, March 18, May 20, July 15 and Nov. 18.

Class size will be limited to 30 participants and will be filled on a first-come first-served basis. Pre-registration will be required.

For more information or to register, call Raymond Campbell, 410-306-0566, or e-mail [raymond.b.campbell@us.army.mil](mailto:raymond.b.campbell@us.army.mil).

### Annual Army Science Conference December 2008

The 26th Army Science Conference will be held Dec. 1 through 4, at the JW Marriott Orlando Grande Lakes, Orlando, Fla., [www.asc2008.com](http://www.asc2008.com). The theme is Transformational Army Science and Technology-Harnessing Disruptive S&T for the Soldier. The conference agenda will focus on autonomous systems, biotechnology, immersive technology, nanotechnology, network science, neuro-science and quantum information science.

For more information, call Jayne Ashe, CMP, TMP Design Corporation, 757-357-4011 or fax 757-357-5108.

(Editors Note: More Shorts can be seen at [www.apgnews.apg.army.mil](http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil) under Shorts.)